

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, April 8, 2005

6D OFFICERS HONORED DURING MONTHLY “CHAMPS” CEREMONY

Early in the morning of December 31, 2004, Officers Mark Dega and Keith Green of the Sixth District pulled their police cruiser into a Shell gas station to investigate what turned out to be an armed robbery and carjacking in progress. Within seconds, the officers were engaged in a gunfight with three armed offenders. Moments later, a vehicular pursuit began involving three other 6D officers – Michael Architzel, Michael Mudd and Charles Garrett Jr. The gunmen opened fire on the officers on several occasions, with one of the gunmen periodically emerging from the vehicle’s sunroof to fire at the officers. When the suspects finally bailed out of the vehicle, the officers were able to apprehend one of them. Just two days later, 6D Officer Christopher Micciche observed a vehicle that he believed was involved in the December 31 incident. Officer Micciche, assisted by K-9 Sergeant James Ginger, began a pursuit of the suspect vehicle. The two occupants bailed out, but Sergeant Ginger and his K-9 partner, “Simon,” quickly found one of them hiding in a basement stairwell. A search of the vehicle uncovered a 9-mm semi-automatic sawed-off rifle with its serial numbers obliterated. The suspect was immediately charged with a number of weapons and vehicle offenses. Because of their bravery, quick thinking and teamwork in removing two dangerous offenders from the community, these seven members were honored this past week during the monthly CHAMPS awards ceremony.

DC TO JOIN IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) in the US—a time dedicated to promoting victims’ rights and services in all sectors of society. This year, DC will be joining communities across the nation, April 10–16, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of this national observance of crime victims, survivors and those who serve them. The theme for 2005 NCVRW is “Justice Isn’t Served Until Crime Victims Are.” During the week, the MPDC will be highlighting some of its recent victim service initiatives, including the creation of a new, specially equipped sexual assault victim interview room, in which detectives can conduct interviews in a victim-sensitive setting. In addition, the Department—through training and internal communications—will be reminding all members about the rights and services available to crime victims in DC and the MPDC’s role in supporting victims. The DC Office of the Attorney General will staff an information table on April 12 and 14 in the lobby of One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street, NW) to increase public awareness of the services provided by the office’s Victim Witness Assistance Unit.

- ① Read more about their heroic actions, as well as the exemplary efforts of the 10 other April CHAMPS awardees, at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,556685,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

- ① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The April awards luncheon was hosted by the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Northwest.

- ① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,548642,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1.asp

- ① For more information about the 25th anniversary celebration of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, visit:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

- ① For information about victims’ rights and services in DC—including DC’s CrimeVictim’s Bill of Rights and the Crime Victims Compensation Program—visit:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,539164,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1.asp

- ① The federal Office for Victims of Crime has a new public awareness website at:

<http://www.crimevictims.gov>

MAYOR INTRODUCES COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-CRIME BILL

Mayor Williams this week announced the introduction of comprehensive legislation that addresses a variety of community protection issues, including enhancing the penalties for individuals who commit violent crimes against children and senior citizens. The Omnibus Public Safety Act of 2005 includes provisions that all “crimes of violence”—not just robbery and attempted robbery—are offenses for which enhanced penalties are available for senior victims. Additionally, the legislation increases penalties for crimes against minors if they are committed by someone who is at least two years older than the victim. The legislation also addresses the problem of gun violence by imposing a mandatory minimum of one year for a felon who is caught with a firearm. It increases the maximum penalty for first-time armed offenses to 10 years, and prohibits felons from possessing any firearm (not just pistols). The proposed act also establishes sanctions for juveniles who willfully fail to appear for delinquency hearings, treating such an action as a finding of need for care or rehabilitation. Finally, the legislation makes it a crime to encourage someone to join or remain in a gang, to commit certain crimes as a gang member and to retaliate against an individual for refusing to join or seeking to leave a gang.

CALLING ALL SENIORS: DC NEEDS YOU FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS’ POLICE ACADEMY

The MPDC, in partnership with the DC Office on Aging, has created a unique opportunity for senior citizens to get involved in making their communities safer: the Senior Citizens’ Police Academy. The 12-week program will give seniors a chance to learn about the operations of the MPD, develop problem-solving skills, become ambassadors in their communities and volunteer to help prevent crime in their communities. Classes will begin in June and will run on consecutive Tuesday mornings for approximately three hours per class. Participants must be age 50 or older, a DC resident, willing to complete the entire program and consent to a background check. There is no cost to participate in the program. Under the program, the MPDC will provide up to 40 senior citizens at a time with courses that help them to understand their role in neighborhood safety, as well as the roles of the MPDC and other community policing partners. Other courses will focus on building residents’ capacity to impact crime and disorder problems and on developing leadership skills for producing lasting change.

NEWS & NOTES

IMF/World Bank Meetings. The MPDC will be fully mobilized next weekend for the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, as well as anticipated demonstrations. To ensure adequate police coverage for these events, and to maintain strong neighborhood patrols, all sworn members of the MPDC will be working over the weekend. In addition, the Department will activate its network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, and there will be some street closings in the area immediately around the main IMF and World Bank buildings in Northwest. More specific details about street closings and other public safety preparations will be announced later in the week.

Free Commuter Cycling Safety Classes. In anticipation of Bike to Work Day on May 20, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association is offering free Commuter Cycling Safety classes on three dates in April and May. Two of the classes (on April 13 and May 14) will be held at the MPDC’s Third District station, 1620 V Street, NW. Details on the classes and Bike to Work Day are at <http://www.waba.org>.

① For a summary of the Omnibus Public Safety Act of 2005, go to: <http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=679>

① View the latest crime statistics in DC at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

① Learn more by going to: <http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3142>

① An announcement of the Senior Citizens’ Police Academy was included in this month’s Senior Beacon. Interested seniors can also get more information and request a registration form by contacting the Office on Aging at (202) 724-5626 or Marsha Hott of the MPDC at (202) 727-8751, or via e-mail <mailto:marsha.hott@dc.gov>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 4/8/05
◆ 2005: 50	
◆ 2004: 49	
◆ % Change: +2.0%	
◆ Closure Rate: 48.0% (24 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/2/05
◆ Total: 905	
◆ Drugs: 183	
◆ Weapons: 21	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 12	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 40	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/2/05
◆ Arrests: 42	
◆ Curfew Violations: 150	
◆ Truants: 0 (Spring Break)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/6/05
◆ April: 13	
◆ March: 111	
◆ 2005 Total: 715	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/8/05
◆ 2005: 14	
◆ 2004: 15	
◆ % Change: -6.7%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov